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SOME FEW
REMARKS
UPON A
PAMPHLET
INTITUL'D,
A Letter from a Soldier to the Commons of England, &c. printed for *E. Mallet.*

I Am beholden to Mrs. *Mallet* and her Correſpondent (who aſſumes an honourable Name that belongs not to him) for the ſight of the Addreſs from *Ireland* relating to the Act for *Reſumption of* Iriſh *Forfeitures*. It having occaſion'd ſome Talk, my Curioſity led me to read it over all together; and I am perſwaded that any other Perſon who takes the ſame courſe, and calmly reflects upon the Subject Matter of it, giving Allowance for ſome unwary and unadviſed Expreſſions, will be ſufficiently armed againſt all the Venom the pretended Soldier has ſcattered in every Line of his Letter. I call him *pretended Soldier*, for I can't believe that the Gentlemen to whom that Name does really belong, will allow that a ſix weeks Expedition under the D. of *M.* in the Weſt (which upon Enquiry may perchance be the utmoſt of the Publiſher's Pretenſions) will entitle a Man to that Character. Yet I [illegible] wrong him by laying the whole Malice of the Pamphlet to his Charge: I have Aſſurances that three Perſons at leaſt clubb'd to *this Production alſo*; and it ſo exactly reſembles its Parents, 'tis made up of ſo many falſe and malicious Repreſentations to the diſadvantage of the Proteſtants of *Ireland*, that he muſt be a very ill Gueſſer who miſtakes in any one of them.

It were a tranſcribing the whole Libel, to take notice of the Inſolence and Contempt, the Scorn and Slander with which the Authors treat Men infinitely better than themſelves; nay, and print the Names of ſome few of them at length. There are Perſons in the World, who relying for their Security on the Stamp and Character they bear, have for ſome time treated the Proteſtants of *Ireland* in general, juſt in the ſame manner that theſe Addreſſers are here dealt with. I fancy the Authors of this Letter will be allowed to know pretty well the Opinions of the reporting Truſtees in this

point; and 'tis evident by the Actings of the one, and the writing of the other, *Fo.* 22. *That they behave themselves towards the* English *Protestants of* Ireland, *as towards Men whose Poverty and Misery render them so despicable, that they think them below the Care and Notice of an* English Parliament; *and whose want of Understanding is such, that they are Objects of Contempt, even to Mr.——, Mr.——, and Mr.——.*

'Tis a hard Lesson for Men of Honour, Quality and Estates to be thus insulted and domineer'd over by such worthless Wretches: And that the Protestants of *Ireland* have hitherto so tamely submitted to their Insolence and Slanders, is a proof above exception, that they pay a Submission without reserve to the Determinations of an *English* Parliament, and resolve to do so, till their Sufferings are so evident, as to procure a Redress from the same Hands, which by means of false Suggestions were induc'd to do what I am confident would not have been done, had things been seen in a true light.

It is not my intent to meddle with the Cases of particular Persons: They must have but very indifferent Reputations who need a Defence against the Slanders of such a Pen: My concern is for the whole; and there are two Suggestions in their Libel, beyond which the Malice of their Master could not have supply'd them with likelier Matter to do Mischief. The Intent of the Address appears plainly to be the gaining Relief to faithful Subjects from Hardships that they feel: (Feeling is the only Sense the Letter-writers will allow to the Protestants of *Ireland*, and they take care to keep that in full imployment): In order to the obtaining that Relief, the Addressers have taken occasion to express the sense of the Body of the Protestants of that Kingdom touching the ill Consequences of that Act, and how destructive it is to the Protestant Interest there, *the Declension of which must in time affect* England, *tho 'tis not so immediately felt.* If the Fact could not be denied, what could be thought on so likely to prevent any advantage from that Application, as the raising Animosities and Jealousies about the manner of their suing for Redress, and the engaging and interesting the suffering Soldiers in preventing the Relief that is sought for?

Against the manner of the Application these Scribblers object, *That 'tis an Appeal to the King against his Commons, and Endeavour to sow Dissension between him and his People*, and very much rely upon the wording of the Address: *That the Addressers expressly limit their Dependance to the Crown of* England, *as if it were on purpose to exclude the Lords and Commons of their share*; and with great Assurance lay down this Position, *That to be dependant on the Crown of* England, *is no Dependance at all upon* England, *and amounts to no more than their having the same King.* Whoever reads the Address, will observe that the Addressers thought it their Duty to apply to their Sovereign, to represent their Grievance plainly and truly, and to submit to his Majesty's Wisdom, *what Methods should seem to him most expedient for the applying suitable Remedies, according to their Circumstances, and the Justice of their Cause.* They had not such an Opinion of his Majesty as the Writers of the Letter, under pretence of a Compliment, have published to his disadvantage, *Fol.* 22. *That he is too great to let down his Thoughts so low, as to regard the Addressers Concerns.* They gratefully own their having had Expressions of his being a common Father to all his Dominions, and, as if they had

had foreſeen the ſpite of theſe their Enemies, concluded their Addreſs in theſe Words: *May it therefore pleaſe your Majeſty to ſuffer us upon this occaſion to aſſure your Majeſty, that your Proteſtant Subjects of this Kingdom are ſo ſenſible of the unexpreſſible Favours they have received from your Majeſty, and of your tender Care of them, that nothing can ever ſhake their Faith and Duty to your Majeſty: And that whatſoever the Malice of their Enemies may, for private Ends and ill Deſigns, ſuggeſt to the contrary, no Inducements whatſoever can prevail with them to endeavour to make, or ſo much as to wiſh themſelves independant of, or not ſubject to the Crown of* England: *And that none of your Majeſty's Subjects of any of your Dominions, will upon all occaſions ſhew a more forward and ready Zeal to maintain and defend againſt all Oppoſers whatſoever your Majeſty's Sacred Perſon and Government, the Proteſtant Religion, the Laws, Liberties and Rights of the Crown of* England, *than your Majeſty's Proteſtant Subjects of* Ireland.

Let the World judge between the Addreſſers and their Accuſers, whether any occaſion were given for the inſolent Uſage and virulent Accuſations with which this Libel has loaded them; and whether any thing but Foreheads paſt bluſhing could lay the Matters above-mentioned to their Charge. Was there any need in an humble Application to their Soveraign, imploring his Favour, to take upon them to direct, and tell him (what admits of no doubt, and what the fifth Line of their Libel tells the World) *That without the Conſent of the Commons* (I would add *Lords* too) *the King cannot give them Relief?* Could there be any danger of ſowing Diſſention between the King and his Commons by this Application, when no uſe could be made of it, but by the Method his Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to take of laying it before both Houſes, for them (if they pleaſe) to examin into the Truth of their Allegations, and join with him in giving Redreſs? I would fain have the Letter-writers, out of all the Hiſtory of which they pretend to be Maſters, to produce one Record, Book of Hiſtory or Law, wherein the Kingdom of *Ireland* is expreſſed to be annexed unto, or dependant upon the King, Lords and Commons of *England*. If there be no ſuch Precedent to write after, theſe Gentlemen ought in juſtice to have given ſome publick intimation of the Alteration of the Phraſe, before the Addreſſers ſhould incur a Crime for not uſing it. To ſay that *Ireland* is dependant on the Crown of *England*, has hitherto been taken to import, *That the Perſon who according to the Laws and Conſtitution of* England, *is inveſted with the Royal Authority in* England, *is in conſequence of that King of* Ireland. And is not that another kind of Dependance than what *Scotland*, *Breda*, or the principality of *Orange* have on the Crown of *England*.

This is ſuch a Dependance as K. *James* and his *Popiſh* Parliament in *Ireland* could never have cancelled: 'Tis what *England*, *the whole Body of it*, have an Intereſt in: No *Engliſh* man of *Ireland* doubts it, and much leſs wiſhes it otherwiſe. But let the World judge, whether it would not be very hard, if occaſion ſhould be taken to continue them under Sufferings, which if they are Judges whether they can feel or not, they feel to be very great, for this reaſon only, That they could not *propherically* know what Variation from the common manner of ſpeaking would pleaſe theſe Remarkers upon their Addreſs? If the Subſtance of their Complaints are undeniably true, grievous,

cure, and fit to be redreſs'd, it would be a miſerable Caſe, if they ſhould fall of that Redreſs for following a Phraſe in expreſſing themſelves, which hitherto has been always allowed of.

The Letter-writers, when it may contribute to their ill-natur'd purpoſes to take the Addreſſers words in their proper ſence, can underſtand them well enough; and therefore to have an occaſion of ridiculing the Offer which the Addreſs ſeems to make, and to let them into the uſe of Language befitting none but themſelves, ſuch as the taxing *the Nobility and Gentry of* Ireland *with pragmatical Impertinence, and giving them the Names of* Trinculo's, *Fantaſtick Vice-Roys, Errant* Sancho Pancha's, *and Squire-like Governours of their wild and inchanted Iſland*; they will notwithſtanding all their Outcries for want of the Expreſly naming and applying to the two Houſes, call this, *a Propoſal tendred to the King and Parliament*, fol. 20.

I muſt confeſs my ſelf to have been under a great ſurprize, when I read at the end of their 4th Page, that the Writers of this Letter ſhould ſurmiſe a Danger or Miſchief to *England* from the *Poor Iriſh*. Can they be of opinion, that there is any cauſe of apprehenſion from that Quarter? It is true, that to another purpoſe they tell the World, *fol.* 5. *That the* Engliſh *of* Ireland *are an handful of People, beſet with ſeven times* (they might almoſt have doubled them) *the number of* Iriſh, *who are their mortal Enemies*. And if ſo, can it be wondred at, that theſe *poor beſet* Engliſh ſhould make the moſt inſtant and earneſt Addreſſes to their own Fleſh and Blood, to prevent the Increaſe, and further Acceſſion of Power to thoſe *their mortal Enemies*? If this thing be reaſonable in it ſelf, and if it be the Intereſt of *England* to ſupport that *Handful of Men*, the Subſtance and Ground-work of the Addreſs ſeems in point of Policy to be fit to be complyd with: And then ſurely *in duty to England, as well as from a Principle of Self-Preſervation, their Condition and Danger ought to be repreſented to* England, *in whoſe hands it is to relieve them*. And if the Foundation be ſound, it is hopeſt, That the juſt Complaints of a People under dread, and in pain, will be regarded, and looked upon with favourable Allowances, altho' the Stile wherein they vent thoſe Complaints ſhould not chance to be ſo accurate as ſome may think might poſſible fall from the Pens of Men who breath a cleaner Air, and are perfectly at eaſe. The Title Page of this Pamphlet ſays, the Addreſs was carrying on *by the Proteſtants of* Ireland: I take this part of it to be Mrs. *Mallet's*, *for 'tis true*; the generality of them have ſigned it. The Letter-writers tell the World (and make themſelves very merry with it) that *no Papiſt would or did ſign it*.

Perhaps it may be true, tho 'tis to be ſuſpected, conſidering the hands thro' which the Story comes: However 'twas but one, and he, I'll engage, an Apoſtate from the Principles of his Country men, ſome one who has been in K. *William's* Service: But the main Body of that Religion, I aſſure you, expreſs themſelves in another manner towards *the twelve Apoſtles ſent among them with good Tidings*, as they profanely expreſs themſelves when they talk of certain Friends of theirs.

But 'tis ſaid, *fol.* 6. That the Nobility, Privy-Council, Biſhops, Judges, eminent Lawyers, and moſt conſiderable Gentry have refuſed to ſign this Addreſs. There are ſome Gentlemen who have been ſo ſucceſsful in having credit given to their confident falſe Aſſertions, or (which is

of

of as bad consequence) in being countenanc'd, whether believ'd or not, that they are hardened in the Practice. The Addresses must speak for themselves; in the mean time the Writers of the Letter, to make themselves appear to be what they are, have published the Names of 3 or 4 of the Privy Counsellers, as Subscribers to a Circulatory Letter, and they very well know (and were sufficiently stung with the Knowledge of it) *That the Privy Council unanimously (not one Dissenter) applyed themselves to the Earl of* Rochester, *then Lord Lieutenant of* Ireland, *humbly to represent to his Majesty their Sense, that the Burden and Mischiefs of that Act to the* English *Protestant Interest of* Ireland, *were beyond Expression*: And that several of the Lords declared, *That in their Opinion the* English *Interest there has already suffered more by this Act than by the last Rebellion.*

I cannot bear the looking further into a Paper writen with such Scurrility and Falshood, that a Gentleman must be ashamed to own the having read it twice over: But I must observe, *That the Protestants of* Ireland *are the last Men in the World who wish to have the Arrears of the Soldiers poſtpon'd or unsatisfied. However the Writers of this Libel have assumed that Name, to engage those Gentlemen in their Interest, I am confident that no one Gentleman in the Army, who has been conversant in* Ireland, *can entertain a Suspicion of that kind: Many of the unpaid Officers are Protestants of that Kingdom; the present Address expresses their readiness to have done all that lay in their power, or could be expected from them: The Diversion of what might have answered the Soldiers just Demands, and the Disappointments they have met with, lies at the doors of false Reporters, who raised People's expectations much beyond the Truth of things, (unless that Truth was known to them) that they themselves might be sure to be Gainers, whatever became of the Army.*

Upon the whole matter, I hope it may not be unworthy the Consideration of an *English* Parliament, *Whether (Supposing the greatest part of the Facts mention'd in the Address to be true) it be not reasonable to give relief to that Kingdom.* If there be any doubt of the Truth of the Allegation, it is hoped, *That the Hands of the Nobility, Gentry and Freeholders of every County in* Ireland, *presented to the King, in order to it's being laid before the Parliament, will have at least an equal Credit with the Assertions of 2 or 3 Gentlemen, who for ends of their own have ventured so far, that they think they must carry their Point through, and that there is no retreating for them.* If the whole Privy Council and Body of the Nobility and Gentry of a Kingdom may be allowed to be but a Ballance to those Gentlemen (I heartily beg their pardon for bringing them on a Level) and procure an Examination of matters, they don't doubt Relief. If the several Articles of the Address are not matters of Consequence enough to be regarded and examined into; or if upon Examination they prove groundless, his Majesty and the Parliament of *England* need not to be taught ways of expressing their Resentments: But surely *England* will think herself concern'd to give that Satisfaction to a dependant Kingdom (a *Province*, as the Letter-writers choose to call *Ireland*) as to shew some regard to such Complaints; at least not to suffer her to be insulted in such a manner as the Letter-writers have treated her. It does seem to be of some concern to *England* it self, to inquire whether it be true or not;

1. That

2. That many of the Papists of *Ireland*, who stood longest out in opposition to the *English* Arms and Interest, are restored unto, and confirmed in their Estates by means of this Act.

3. That where *Irish* Papists had by his Majesty's Grace obtain'd Reversal of their *Outlawries* (*which as to their Estates is as were an Act of Bounty from the King, as the Grants made to Protestants was a Bounty to them*) their Titles are *unimpeach'd* by this Act; when Acts of Grace to *Protestants* are generally *repeal'd*.

3. That the Improvers and poor Husbandmen, who by Proclamations, Orders, and publick Intimations were requir'd and encourag'd to betake themselves to Tillage, are by this Law depriv'd of the Benefit of their Labours, and the Charges of their Improvements; *Which is an Article that the Authors intended to pass over and neglect.*

4. That the persons concern'd in the Proclamation of *Pingiass*, &c. were (as the Writers who best know suggest) the Papists among whom there were no *Protestants* at all; *And that all those have the Benefit of those Proclamations secur'd to them by the Act it self.* Fol. 12.

5. But that there were other Orders and Encouragements given in *Ireland* after the Kingdom was reduc'd, and publick Intimations given in *England*, That 'twas expected that all the *English* who had fled from that Kingdom should return and betake themselves to their Tillage, *in which Protestants were principally, if not only concern'd*: And that for want of a due Information of their Case (nay by means of Reports to their disadvantage) a like provision is not yet made for them.

6. It may be worth observing from the Reflection upon the 4th Article of the Address, whether the Authors of the Letter (who all through their Paper shew themselves to be perfectly well acquainted with the Proceedings and Sentiments of the Trustees) do not apprehend the Judgment of the Trustees to be; *That in their Disposal and Sales of Estates they are not tyed up to the vesting Clause in the Act, but that what Lands soever they shall think fit to sell, and receive Money for, shall bind all Mankind, whether were the Estate of a Forfeiting Person or not: That it never shall be contested or tried, whether the Estate sold by them, was vested in them by the Words or Intent of the Act; if they are pleased to sell it, whose Estate soever it is, he left without Remedy.* This would prove an effectual way (and the only one) of Answering the Report of the first Commissioners, if there are Estates enough in *Ireland*, in the possession of Persons, who have not made that Court to them which they expected, or are upon any account obnoxious to their Displeasure: but if they endeavour'd to propagate such a *wild* Opinion, was it not of moment and concern to every single Man, who has any Property in *Ireland*, to prevent so dangerous a Notion's gaining ground? *Must not such Declarations made by the Trustees, as are now publish'd by the Letter-writers, That the Parliament has made the Trustees Judges of all Men's Properties without any Limitation, justly alarm* Ireland? And can such an unlimited Power, claimed by Persons who have not shewn very kind Inclinations towards a Kingdom, be esteem'd (what the Letter contemptuously calls all their Complaints) *a trifling Grievance not worthy the regard of the King or Parliament?*

7. There never was a falser thing affirmed, than that full as large Powers as that claimed by the Trustees in this parti-

particular, were committed to the Commissioners who executed the Act of Settlement. Not to mention the many years Transaction relating to those two Acts (of Settlement and Explanation) the Opportunities that were given to all Persons to make their Cases known, of delivering Objections, and having Answers to them in writing, of being heard by Council before the King, and Council in *England*; of the respective Acts passing afterwards through both the Houses of Parliament in *Ireland*, where the matters comprized in each of them were originally transacted and throughly known and understood (besides abundance of other differences between the Cases, which I forbear to mention for fear of giving offence (the Power of the Commissioners in Instances resembling the present one, was restrain'd and reduc'd to a Certainty: For no Lands were vested in the Crown, or to be decreed by the Commissioners, but such as after the 23d of *October*, 1641. were seized or sequestred into the Hands of the King, *&c.* or otherwise disposed of, distributed, set out, or set apart, by reason of, or upon account of the Rebellion, *&c.* Of all the Lands of the *Irish* concern'd in that Rebellion, there were Surveys taken, called the *the Civil and Down Surveys*; and thereupon the Lands were seized and sequestred, and by Decrees of Courts then in being and matters of Record, allotted to Soldiers and Adventurers. The Commissioners had no power to hear or decree any thing but with relation to such Lands as did appear by those *Matters of Record* to be Lands seized and sequestred, *&c.* And their Certificate and Letters Patents upon them did always set forth that matter: So that no Man was in danger whose Lands were not seized and sequestred, or comprized in those matters of Record. But in the present case there is not relation to any Matter of Record, to ascertain Mankind over what Estates they shall exercise their Power. They think themselves confin'd to nothing but generally to the Estates of Forfeiting Persons, of the Extent of which they would be sole Judges; and even in the State of the Case whereon the Question arises, 'tis supposed, That they make a Sale of the Estate of an Innocent Person who never was in Rebellion; and if that be affirmed and allowed, there can be no Bounds put to their Power, but they may sell every Protestant's Estate in the Kingdom.

8. Upon the 8th Article it may be worth the time of the House to compare the first Report with the State of the Forfeitures now laid before them: By that it will easily be seen, how far in personal Estates and real Estates, that verifies or falsifies the Complaint made of the Deceit put upon the House by the reporting Commissioners.

9. And 'tis desired that Mr. *Annesley* may be asked whether he had not an account before the making of the Report, nay whether he did not often own, that he knew that there were many thousands of Acres pass'd in the Duke of *York*'s Patent (the Letter-writers mention 13000) which were never part of that Estate, or in possession? And if he did so, upon what ground it was that he made such a Report to the House, which occasion'd so great a Noise, and misguided them in the Values; without the least Caution or Remark in the Report concerning that Abatement.

10. 'Tis hardly worth observing how falsely the Letter-writers argue upon the 9th Article: They pretend the Complaint

plaint in that Article is not of concern to *Ireland*, it being all one to them how the Produce of the Forfeitures are diſtributed: They determine that none of that Produce ſhall go to the ſuffering *Engliſh* Proteſtants; but if that ſhould be their Caſe, yet the Complaint were not groundleſs: A great part of it relates to the Charges of Councel, Witneſſes, Attendance, Inferior Officers, *&c.* none of which can be brought into the publick Account: And, I fancy, I could go near to fix upon the time from whence (to the great Grief of ſome Perſons) it has been taken that the Fees and Perquiſites of Offices ſhall belong to the Publick.

Tho I am no Addreſſer, I will venture to conclude this Paper with ſaying what 'tis evident is the Senſe of them, tho it varies ſomething in the Phraſe; That there are no Subjects of the King or Kingdom of *England*, more firm and ſteddy to the true legal Conſtitution of the Government of *England*, without enclining to Arbitrary and unlimitted Power on the one ſide, or a Commonwealth on the other, than the *Engliſh* Proteſtants of *Ireland*. And I have good grounds to believe that their being ſo has been one of the greateſt Occaſions of the rude Malice which ſome of theſe Libellers have upon many Occaſions expreſs'd againſt them.

Poſtſcript. Something unforeſeen has happened ſince this haſty Paper was put out of the Writer's power; but he knows his Intention is honeſt, and aims at the Advantage of *England*; and he hopes that he has not expreſſed himſelf in ſuch a manner as may give juſt Cauſe of Offence or Diſtaſt to any one, excepting three or four Perſons, whoſe Diſlike he muſt eſteem a Credit. Give me leave to add only, *That the not inſtancing in particular Partialities and Misbehaviours in ſome of the Truſtees, is not the Effect of a Barrenneſs of matter for ſuch Complaints; as will be evidently ſhewn, if timely Notice may be given to* Ireland, *that ſuch Complaints will be received, and a reaſonable time allowed for the bringing them in*: Hitherto no one has been admitted to ſay any thing againſt the Truſtees; and, if I am truly informed, they have uſed great Skill and Dexterity in ſecuring themſelves againſt direct Proofs of that kind: For altho moſt of the Claims are heard, and they have upon them declared their Judgments in Court, yet few or none of them are ſo determin'd, as not to be ſtill in their power: for hardly one Adjudication is ſigned, and in the Hands of the Perſons concern'd. Nay if an Account given to me (which I believe may be depended on) is true, having ſign'd one ſingle Adjudication for one Mr. *Mardonnel*, they recalled it, and have taken it again into their own Hands; ſo that the Claimants already heard remain ſtill at their Mercy, and they may make their Books yet ſpeak what they pleaſe, if any thing preſſes. I believe that the Proteſtants of *Ireland* are fully perſwaded, that the Execution of the Act in the preſent manner, is quite of another Conſequence than was at firſt apprehended, and extremely inconvenient and grievous: And they thought it moſt proper to apply themſelves to make out the ill Effects of it in general, tho perhaps ſomething may notwithſtanding the Shortneſs of Time, be ſaid of Particulars, when the Houſe pleaſes to enter on that Matter.

FINIS.

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